

Lessons for the Leader

God made people able to make choices. Do we daily make the choices God desires us to make? Out of the 12 spies sent into Canaan, only 2 made the right choice.

- Read Numbers 13. When you know God is leading you somewhere, do you step out in faith and go the whole distance? What did the spies see? What did the men bring back to show Moses and the people?
- Note how long the spies were gone. Forty days seems like a long time to check out a place. However, think of the vast area of land the men covered. How long do we spend checking out our choices before making them? Are we sometimes too rash? Do we make quick choices we later regret?
- Look at the list of reasons given by the spies as to why the people could not enter Canaan (vv. 28-33). Do we come up with many reasons—or excuses—for why we cannot do things? Did the spies pray about their findings? Do you spend time in prayer about the choices you must make?
- Read Numbers 14. *Let's take matters into our own hands* is the attitude here. How many times do we take matters into our own hands and not learn from our mistakes? What did the people do? What did Joshua and Caleb offer the people?
- Summarize the consequences the people had to endure for the next 40 years. Do we suffer consequences when we make wrong choices? What happened when the people realized their mistake and tried to enter the land anyway? We must learn to choose to do what God says when He says it. Lead the preschoolers to hear, know, and choose to do what God says.

What do these symbols mean?

Application Activities Format:

1→ Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

Large Group Format:

1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



Joshua and Caleb Chose to Obey God

Focus Passage: Numbers 13–14

Key Bible Verse: 1 John 5:3

Life Application: I can choose to obey God.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (8 minutes)

Greet Children

Play Dominoes

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Welcome Children

Sing "Whoa!"

Sing "My Friend"

Present Offering and Pray

Sing "What You Say"

Introduce the Life Application

Learn the Bible Verse

Tell the Bible Story

Practice Bible Skills

Review the Bible Story

Use Worship Guides

Make Application and Pray

Play "I Spy"

Transition

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1→Greet Children

Pull It Together

Offering container

- Show the children where to place their offerings.

2→Play Dominoes

Pull It Together

Scissors

- Print "Numbers Dominoes" (CD) (1 copy per child).
- Cut apart dominoes and place in different playing areas (tables or floor).
- Direct each child to a playing area.
- Lead the children to play dominoes.
- Dominoes Instructions:
 - Give each child 3 dominoes.
 - Place 1 domino faceup in the center of playing area.
 - Set unused dominoes to one side of playing area.
 - Designate who plays first and the rotation of players.
 - Lead the first child to match either end of the domino lying in the center. If no match can be made, he selects a domino from the unused dominoes and the next player plays.
- Continue to assist kids to match domino ends or to get a new domino until all dominoes are taken.
- Mix up dominoes and play again if a child places all of his dominoes or all dominoes are taken and played.
- Collect dominoes and play again as time allows.
- Say: "We used the letters in the word *Numbers* because it is the name of a book in the Bible. We'll learn from the Book of Numbers about two special men who obeyed God."

Worship

3→Welcome Children (1 minute)

- Comment: "Seeing each of you here today is wonderful! Learning about God's Word is exciting! Let's stand and sing."

4→Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 2 minutes)

5 Sing "My Friend" (DVD, 2 minutes)

Joshua and Caleb Chose to Obey God

6→Present Offering and Pray (2 minutes)

7→Sing "What You Say" (DVD, 2 minutes)

8→Introduce the Life Application (3 minutes)

- Remark: "We can choose to obey God. How can we learn what God wants us to do?"
- Encourage responses.
- Say: "We can read our Bibles to learn what God says. What are some things we know God wants us to do?"
- Invite responses.
- State: "We can choose to do what God says."

9 Learn the Bible Verse (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Paper, marker

- Print the first part of 1 John 5:3 from your preferred translation.

Teacher Tip

Print and use "1 John 5:3 Paraphrase" (CD).

- Display and read aloud the Bible verse.
- Guide children to repeat the verse after you.
- Assign the boys the first half of the verse and the girls the second half.
- Guide the boys to stand and say their assigned words, then the girls.
- Lead all children to say the verse together.

10→Tell the Bible Story (7 minutes)

Pull It Together

Bible times clothing

- Enlist 2 adults to be Joshua and Caleb.
- Print "Joshua and Caleb Script" (CD) (3 copies).
Give each actor and the teacher/narrator a script.

Teacher Tips

- Enlist a person to read the teacher/narrator part.
- Use the Bible story provided if not using the "Joshua and Caleb Script."
- Use "Bible Times Clothes Directions" (CD).
- Begin: "We learned we can choose to do what God says. The two men in our Bible story chose to do what God said. We have guests to tell our Bible story."
- Introduce guests, telling whom each will portray.
- Say: "This story really happened. We can read it in our Bibles. Our guests are pretending to be the men in the story. Let's listen and learn."

- Sit with the children as the guests tell the story or position yourself to be the narrator.

Joshua and Caleb Chose to Obey God

Based on Numbers 13–14

God told Moses to send men into the land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). God had promised this land to the Israelites.

Twelve men, one from each Israelite tribe, were chosen. Two of those men were Joshua and Caleb. All 12 of the men went as spies into Canaan.

Moses told the men to see whether the land looked good or bad. The men were to see if the people were strong and the cities large. Moses wanted to know what the food was like.

The men spied on the land for 40 days. They saw the land was good. Some of the fruit was so large it took two men to carry a bunch of grapes. The men also took other fruit.

The people in the land appeared to be strong and tall. The spies said they felt like grasshoppers next to people in the land; the spies felt small in size. The cities were large with walls around them.

Ten spies told Moses not to go into the land. Joshua and Caleb said God was with the people and they should go into the new land. Joshua and Caleb wanted the people to obey God.

The people grumbled and chose not to obey. Later, the Israelites tried to go into Canaan without asking God to lead them. The people in Canaan fought them and the Israelites ran away. The Israelites traveled in the wilderness for 40 years.

11 Practice Bible Skills (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

Print "Numbers" (CD).

- Display and read aloud the "Numbers" title.
- Say: "Our Bible story is in the Book of Numbers. Numbers is the fourth book in the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Let's open our Bibles to Numbers."
- Enlist adults to help kids.

- Comment: "We learned in Numbers 13–14 about Joshua and Caleb choosing to obey God. We show love to God when we obey."

12→Review the Bible Story (4 minutes)

Pull It Together

Scissors, tape, scrap paper

- Print "Story Cube" and "Teaching Picture Joshua and Caleb" (CD).
- Cut out and assemble cube.
- Display the teaching picture.
- Say: "I'll invite some of you to roll the cube. Use the picture to help you answer the questions."
- Invite a child to roll the cube.
- Read aloud the question on top of the cube.
- Encourage the child to respond.
- Continue to invite the children to roll the cube and respond to the questions.
- Conclude: "Joshua and Caleb chose to obey God. We can choose to do what God says."

13→Use Worship Guides (7 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship Guides; crayons, markers, or pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and writing utensils.
- Lead children to complete the activities.

14→Make Application and Pray (3 minutes)

- Ask: "Who in our Bible story showed their obedience to God? (*Joshua and Caleb*) How many men went to spy out the land of Canaan? (12) How can we show our love to God?" (*by obeying Him*)
- State: "We can choose to do what God says. Let's say that together three times."
- Lead children to repeat the statement three times.
- Pray, asking God to help you and the children choose to do what He says.

15 Play "I Spy" (4 minutes)

- Say: "Let's pretend we are spies like Joshua and Caleb. We can play 'I Spy.'"
- Invite leaders to take turns describing items for children to name.
- Instruct the children to "spy" and describe the things they see.

16→Go to Application Activities or Wrap Up

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

17 Sing "I Can Clap" (DVD, 2 minutes)

18 Review with a Finger Play (4 minutes)

Finger Play

Twelve spies were sent into Canaan
One, two, three, four, five, plus more
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten spies said
"Into Canaan we must not go!
The people are strong and we are small!"
But one, two brave spies spoke up
"Into Canaan we must go!
God will lead us safely in"

One, two, three, four, five, plus more
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten spies said
"No way, not now, we cannot go
Into the land where we've never been!"
But one, two brave spies spoke up
"God is with us. Let us go!"
Sadly no one listened to them

- Say the "Finger Play" as children use their fingers to count along with each number.
- Add motions to other words.

19 Play a Game (4 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship KidStyle Preschool Music CD** or other music CD, CD player

- Assign each child a partner. In each pair, name one preschooler *A* and the other *B*.
- Direct the *As* to form a circle and hold hands.
- Guide the *Bs* to form a circle around the *As* and hold hands.
- Give instructions: "I will play music. When the music starts, children in circle *A* move to the right [*show direction*], and children in circle *B* move to the left [*show direction*]. When the music stops, drop your hands and find your partner. Once you find your partner, hold hands and stoop down together. The first pair to stoop down will be chosen to tell us the Bible verse, something from the Bible story, or say 'we can choose to obey.'"
- Play the game.

20 Dismiss Children to Their Parents

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

17→ Sing "I Can Clap" (DVD, 2 minutes)

18→ Highlight Application Activities (2 minutes)

- Call on several children to tell what they did in their Application Activities.
 - Arts and Crafts—Make Grasshoppers
 - Dramatic Play—Play Charades
 - Games—Play Opposites Game
 - Exploration and Discovery—Explore Maps
- Apply: "Our activities helped us learn we can choose to obey God."

19→ Review with a Finger Play (3 minutes)

Finger Play

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- Add motions to other words.

20→ Play "I Spy" (3 minutes)

- Say: "Let's pretend we are spies like Joshua and Caleb. We can play 'I Spy.'"
- Invite leaders to take turns describing items for children to name.
- Instruct the children to "spy" and describe the things they see.

21→ Dismiss Children to Their Parents

Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

Pull It Together

Children's scissors, brads (2 per child), googly eyes, markers, heavyweight paper

- Print "Grasshopper" (CD) on heavyweight paper (1 copy per child).

Teacher Tips

- Print "Grasshopper" on green paper.
- Glue pieces together instead of using brads.

Worship Through Arts and Crafts

Make Grasshoppers

- Say: "In our Bible story, Joshua, Caleb, and 10 other men were sent to spy out Canaan before the Israelites entered the land. The 10 men said they felt like grasshoppers beside the people in the land. We'll make grasshoppers to remind us of our Bible story."
- Distribute scissors, brads, and a grasshopper paper to each child.
- Instruct: "Cut out all of the pieces. We'll use brads to attach the pieces."
- Assist children with cutting out pieces and adding brads and googly eyes.
- Talk about the Bible story as kids work.
- Invite kids to decorate their grasshoppers.
- Lead children to clean the area.
- Encourage children to use their grasshoppers to measure the height of people and objects. Put grasshoppers end to end to measure.
- State the Bible verse (1 John 5:3).
- Say: "Joshua and Caleb chose to obey God. We can choose to do what God says."
- Pray.

Pull It Together

Scissors

- Print and cut apart "Charades" (CD).

Teacher Tip

Do the acting yourself and guide the children to guess.

Worship Through Dramatic Play

Play Charades

- Explain: "We learned Caleb and Joshua chose to obey God. We can make right choices to obey God. Let's play a game of charades to discover some of the right choices we can make. To play charades, I'll show you and a partner a card and whisper to you what it says. You and your partner pretend to do the action on the card for everyone to guess what you are doing. Choose partners."
- Help kids find partners.
- Select the first set of partners. Read to them a charades card.
- Guide the children to play out the action.
- Lead the other children to guess the action.
- Talk about how the action is a way to obey God.
- Continue until all the partners play charades.
- State the Bible verse (1 John 5:3).
- Say: "We show love for God by obeying Him. We can choose to do what God says."
- Pray.

Pull It Together

Scissors

- Print and cut apart "Opposites" (CD).
- Separate opposites and place cards in 2 sets.
- Place 1 set of cards on the table.

Teacher Tip

Lead children to hold their cards so everyone can see them. This will make finding the opposites much easier.

Worship Through Games

Play Opposites Game

- Instruct: "Let's play a game of opposites. What is an example of an opposite? [Allow responses.] One example is *off* and *on*. I'll give everyone a card. Do not show other people your card. Keep it facedown on the table (or floor). I'll invite a volunteer to guess who is holding the opposite of the card I display. The person he chooses will show his card. If the person he guesses is not holding the opposite card, everyone will swap cards. If the person he guesses is holding the opposite card, place it on the table. Place the opposite cards faceup on the table."
- Give each child an opportunity to draw a card and guess.
- Change games. Direct all kids to turn their cards faceup.
- Identify each opposite set.
- Show a card from your set, directing all kids to find and point to the opposite card on the table.
- Talk about the Bible story.
- State the Bible verse (1 John 5:3).
- Ask: "What were some opposites we heard in our Bible story?"
- Say: "The spies returned from Canaan and told what they saw. The spies gave two opposite ideas. One group said the people must not enter the land. Joshua and Caleb said the people should enter the land. Joshua and Caleb chose to obey God. We can choose to do what God says."
- Pray.

Pull It Together

Maps (world, state, U.S., national parks, etc.), small sticky note arrows or strips (1 color per group)

Teacher Tips

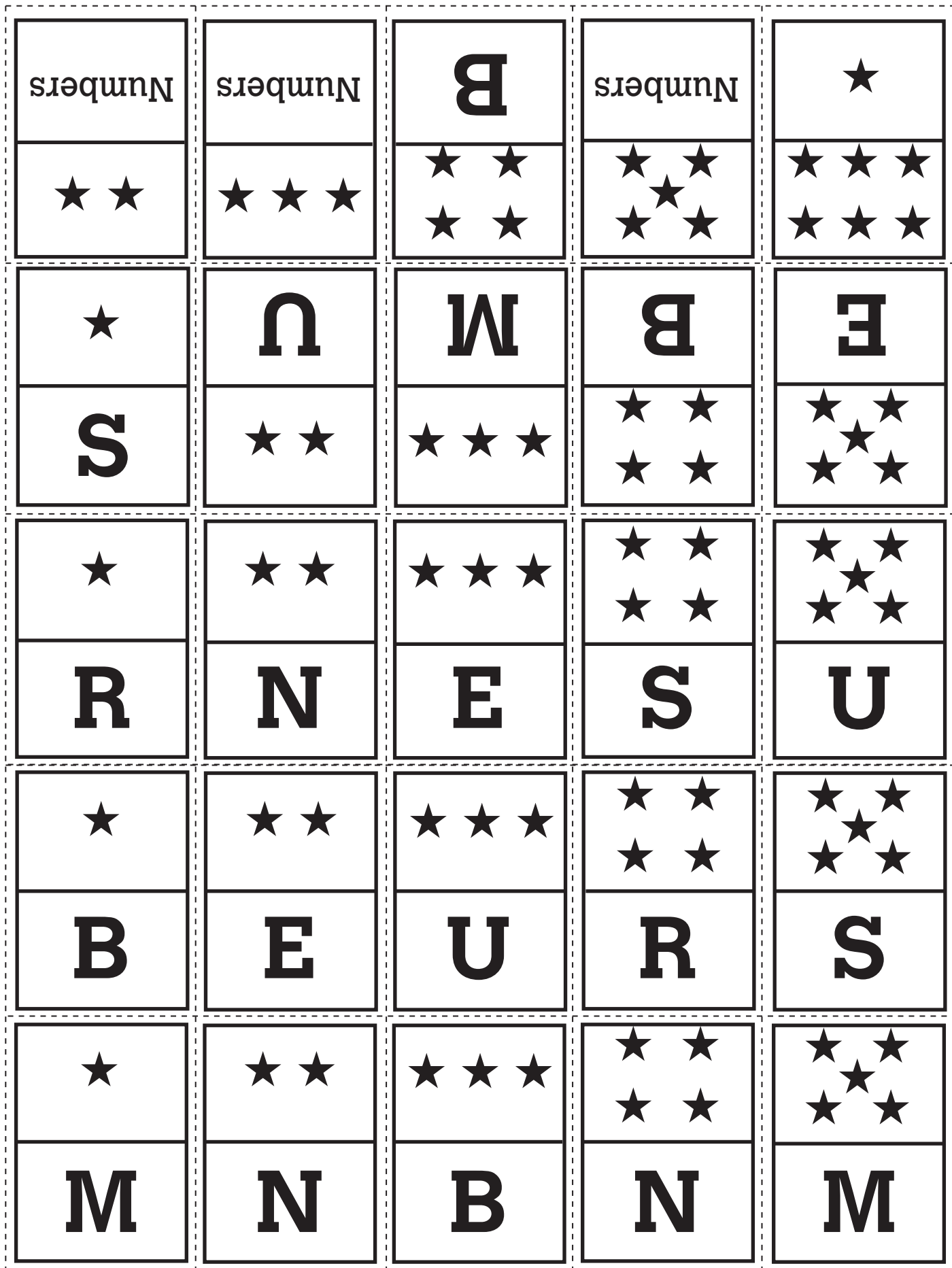
- Download and print maps from the Internet.
- Mark points of interest if your map is not labeled.
- Laminate maps and provide dry erase markers for kids to write on maps.
- Provide extra maps so kids can draw on them or cut them apart to take pieces home.

Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

Explore Maps

- Encourage children to tell about family vacations and where they traveled.
- Ask: "Did your parents use a map or GPS to find where your family was going? Many people use maps to find their way. The spies in our story did not have maps, so Moses told the spies how to go into Canaan and where to look. Let's look at some maps and mark the ways we would travel from place to place. Let's get in groups of two or three."
- Help kids form groups. Distribute supplies.
- Instruct: "Use the sticky notes to mark the paths on your maps you would take from one place to another."
- Assist as needed.
- Comment on the things the spies saw on their trip (tall people, large fruit, strong cities) and on things children see noted on their maps (parks, rivers, airports, etc.).
- Invite kids to switch maps and map new paths.
- Gather the maps and display.
- State the Bible verse (1 John 5:3).
- Say: "The spies traveled in Canaan for 40 days. Ten of the spies did not want to go into the new land. Joshua and Caleb chose to obey God and tell the people to go into the land. Sometimes our friends may want us to do something we know is wrong. We can choose to do what God says."
- Pray.





**We show love
to God by
obeying Him.**

1 John 5:3

Teacher/Narrator: Our story begins after the Israelites finally reached the promised land—the land God promised them a long time ago. Moses sent 12 men to spy out the land and report back. Let's listen.

Joshua: Caleb, what did Moses tell us to do?

Caleb: You know, Joshua. God told Moses to send 12 of our leaders to see what is in the land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). Canaan is where we are supposed to live, and God wants us to see it.

Joshua: Wow, I am so excited! It has been a long trip from Egypt, and here we are, finally.

Caleb: I know. Look how beautiful the land is! Did you see the grapes some of the men cut down? The cluster was so large it took two men to carry it. The men put the grapes on a pole between them so we can take it to show Moses and the people.

Joshua: It seems like everywhere we look everything is large and good. Even the men are like giants.

Caleb: *[laughing]* Yes, they are large. We must look like grasshoppers to them!

Joshua: I'm not really afraid, though. Well, maybe a little at first. But, do you remember God's promises? I know we can live in this land. It will be great to settle down and stay in one place.

Teacher/Narrator: The spies returned home and stood before Moses and the people. Several of the spies told Moses bad things about the promised land.

Caleb: Hey, do you hear what the other spies are saying?

Joshua: I can't believe it! Didn't they see what we saw?

Caleb: They think we shouldn't go into the land because the people are so large. They are afraid.

Joshua: But God promised to take care of us. He told us He is not with those people anymore and He has given this land to us! Why can't the other spies remember this? Surely the people will not listen to them.

Caleb: Oh, yeah? Listen. The people want to go back to Egypt. They are talking about choosing a different leader to take them back. What do you think Moses and Aaron will do?

Joshua: Look! Moses and Aaron are facedown on the ground.

Teacher/Narrator: Moses and Aaron fell to the ground after hearing the people grumble. Caleb and Joshua talked to the Israelites.

Caleb: Oh, Israelites! This land we passed through is wonderful. It has much food, and everything we need. If God is pleased with us, He will bring us into the land.

Joshua: Israelites, don't argue with God, and don't be afraid to go into this land.

Teacher/Narrator: God appeared to the people and talked to Moses.

Caleb: God is angry that the people do not believe He will take care of them.

Joshua: He says we will wander, or travel, for another 40 years before we can enter this land, because the people do not believe.

Caleb: Oh, Joshua. He says only you and I will live until then. He says the others will get old and die and their children will be the ones to go with us into this great land.

Joshua: I wish the other spies saw the land the same way we do. I wish they believed God would take care of us.

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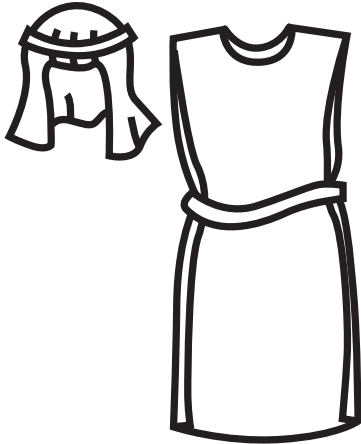
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Bible Times Clothing



General Materials

Robe: Ten feet of 45- or 60-inch-wide fabric that is coarse, like burlap or wool. The fabric can be plain or with simple stripes in earthy, neutral colors.

Headdress: Five feet of a second similar fabric (It does not need to coordinate with the robe fabric.)

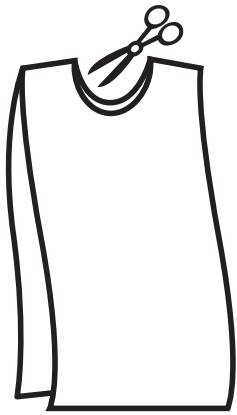
Headband: Four feet of a coarse rope, or a strip of a darker third fabric

Belt: Eight feet of a coarse rope or strip of dark fabric

Scissors

Ruler

Pencil for marking



Simple Method

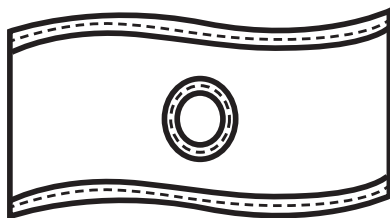
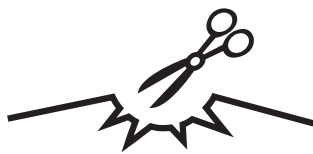
Note: Although this method is the quickest, it is the least durable. Fabric will fray at the edges. Cover cut edges with colored masking tape.

Directions

1. Fold the 10 feet of material in half to make it 5 feet long.
2. Cut a semicircle in the middle of the fold, 8 inches long and 4 inches deep.

To wear: Slip the fabric over the head to rest on the shoulders. Overlap the fabric at each side and secure with the belt.

Headdress: Drape the fabric for the headdress over the head, allowing it to cover the forehead. Secure with the headband.



Sewing Method

Additional Materials

Sewing machine

Thread

Pins

Iron

Directions

1. Fold the material and cut a hole as described in the Simple Method.
2. Clip the neck edge, turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and press. Turn under another $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, press, and sew.
3. On the long sides of the fabric, turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and press. Turn under another $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and press.
4. With right sides together, sew each side from the bottom to within one foot of the top.
5. Hem the bottom by turning under twice.

Numbers



Who were
the people
in the
Bible story?

What
happened
first in our
Bible story?

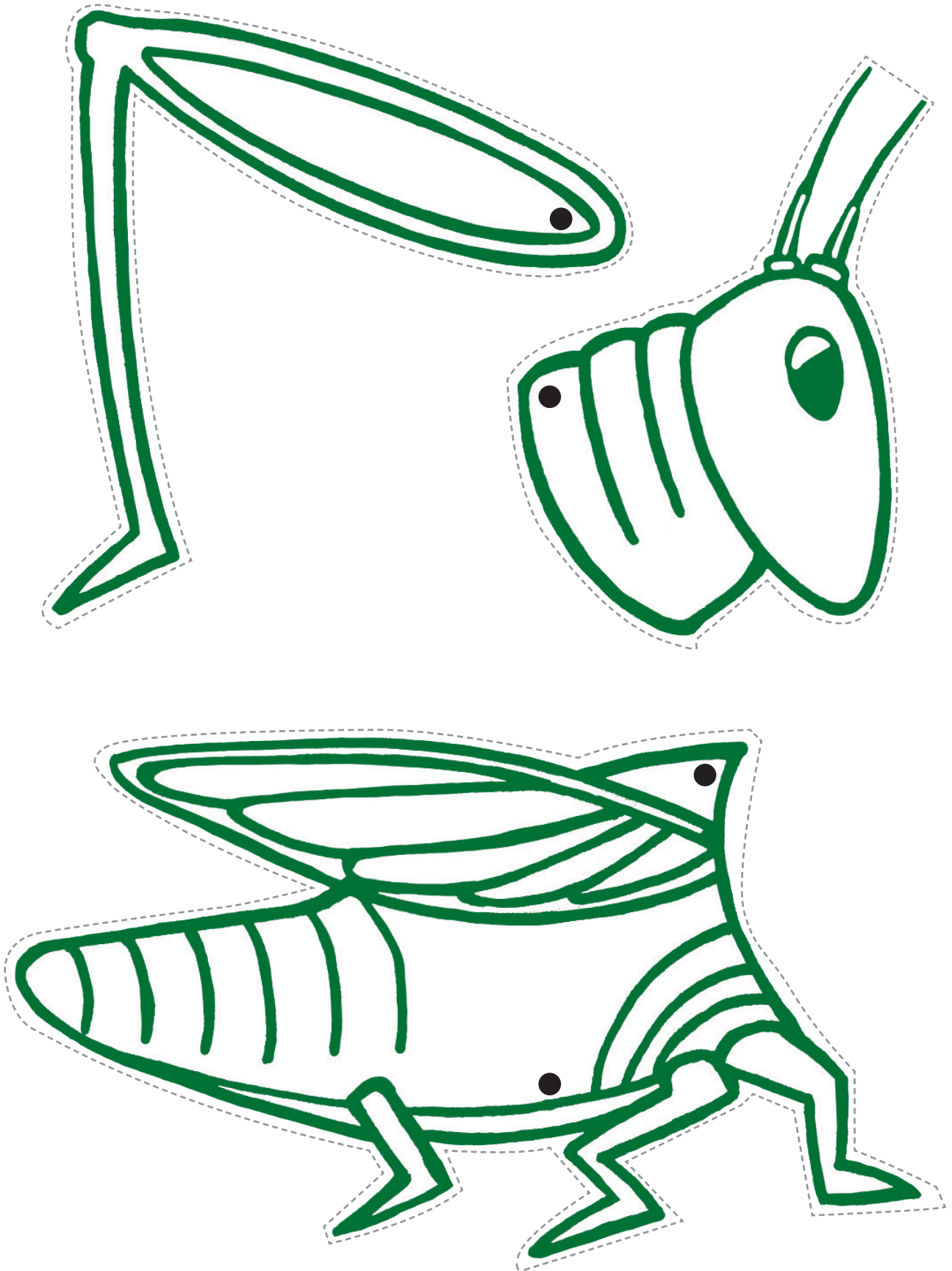
What
happened
last in our
Bible story?

In what book
in the Bible
is our
story found?

Where did
the story
take place?

What did
we learn
from our
Bible story?

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
2. Fold on the solid lines.
3. Fill with scrap paper.
4. Tape closed.



Pray

**Go to
Church**

**Read
the Bible**

Sing

**Give
Offerings**

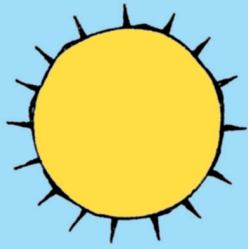
**Love
Others**

**Obey
Parents**

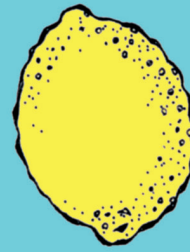
**Worship
God**

**Help
Others**

Be Kind



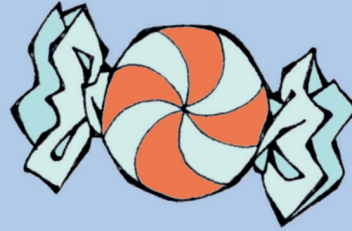
Sunshine



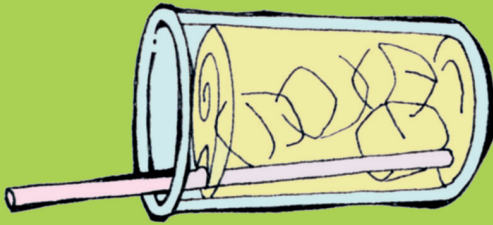
Sour



Rain



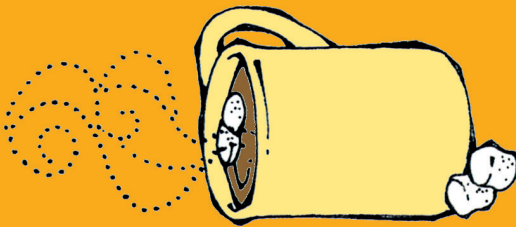
Sweet



Cold



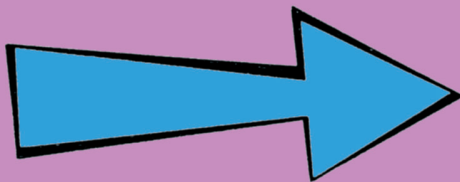
Bad



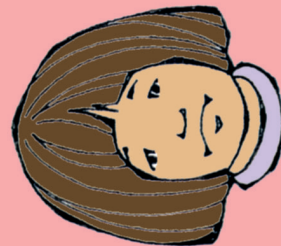
Hot



Good



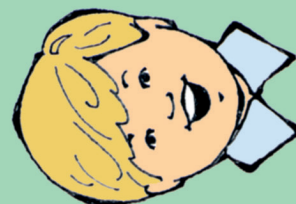
Down



Sad



Up



Happy



Dirty



Wet



Clean



Dry



Crooked



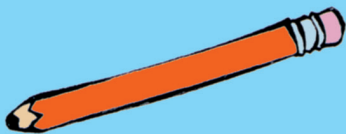
Loud



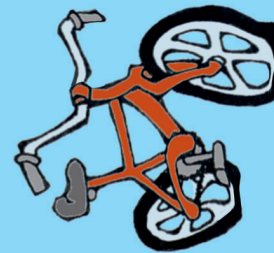
Straight



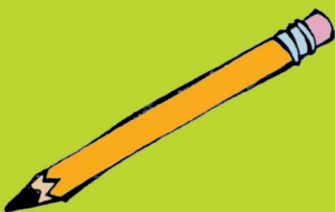
Quiet



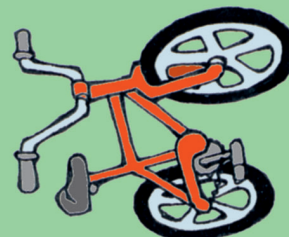
Dull



Old



Sharp



New